

Appl. No. : 09/719,917
Filed : February 20, 2001

REMARKS

Claim 14 has been amended and Claims 15, 17, and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice. As a result, Claims 14, 16, and 26 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-13 and 18-25 were withdrawn from consideration and rejoinder of Claims 1-13 and 18-25 will be considered upon allowance. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as filed. Accordingly, the amendments do not constitute the addition of new matter. Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following comments is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 14-17, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kwiecinski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,661,397).

Kwiecinski et al. discloses a flexible porous mica tape that is bonded with a resin composition present from 2 to 15 weight percent that includes from 0 to 1 weight percent solvent resin. In column 5, lines 10-11, Kwiecinski et al. discloses that the resin is applied "by any suitable means, such as brushing, dipping, spraying, etc."

According to M.P.E.P. 2131, a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference."

As amended, Claim 14 recites "A micaceous product adapted for impregnation comprising: a support coated with a solvent-free resin; and a mica sheet, wherein the resin content of said micaceous product is between 1% and 10% of the total product weight; and the support is a fabric comprising weft yarns and warp yarns on which the resin deposits appear exclusively on the weft yarns at the intersection with the warp yarns."

Support for the amendment to Claim 14 can be found in the Specification at page 9, line 14-22. In the Example presented on page 9, "the resin is found to be present only at the intersections between the warp yarns and weft yarns." Conventional methods of applying the resin to the fabric, such as the methods recited by Kwiecinski et al., would apply resin to the whole surface of the fabric. As such, the methods of Kwiecinski et al. would not apply the resin

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exclusively on the weft yarns at the intersection with warp yarns, as recited in Claim 14. Therefore, the pending claims are not anticipated by Kwiecinski et al. Moreover, nothing in Kwiecinski et al. would even remotely suggest such an arrangement.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 14-17, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Schuler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,540,969).

According to the Examiner, Schuler et al. discloses a mica tape where the threads of the backing layer are coated with a protective resin before being combined with the mica layer. Schuler et al. discloses that essentially only the threads are coated with the protective layer but the resin does not completely fill the interspaces of the fabric.

According to M.P.E.P. 2143.03, to establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.

As stated above, as amended, Claim 14 recites "A micaceous product adapted for impregnation comprising: a support coated with a solvent-free resin; and a mica sheet, wherein the resin content of said micaceous product is between 1% and 10% of the total product weight; and the support is a fabric comprising weft yarns and warp yarns on which the resin deposits appear exclusively on the weft yarns at the intersection with the warp yarns."

As stated above, Schuler et al. discloses that essentially only the threads are coated with the protective layer but the resin does not completely fill the interspaces of the fabric. As such, the methods of Schuler et al. would not apply the resin exclusively on the weft yarns at the intersection with warp yarns, as recited in Claim 14. Schuler et al. does not suggest or motivate one skilled in the art to apply resin exclusively on the weft yarns at the intersection with warp yarns. Therefore, not all the claim limitations of Claim 14 are taught or suggested by Schuler et al. Moreover, nothing in the prior art of record would suggest such an arrangement. Therefore, the pending claims are not obvious in view of Schuler et al.

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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

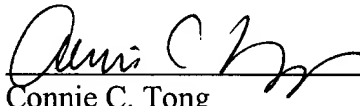
In view of the foregoing amendments and comments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

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